

## **DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POLICY**

“The Department of Toxic Substances Control is committed to ensuring that all of the state's population, without regard to color, national origin or income, are equally protected from adverse human or environmental effects as a result of the Department's policies, programs or activities.”

The Department will:

1. Ensure that, to the extent feasible, its decisions, actions and rulemaking avoid adding to disproportionate environmental and/or health impacts on affected communities and reduce disproportionate environmental and related health impacts on such communities.
2. Promote investigation/cleanup of contaminated sites in areas with minority and low-income populations using voluntary and enforcement tools, allocating limited Orphan Site State funds in a fair manner, and prioritizing active and backlog projects in order that public health and the environment are protected.
3. Continue regional efforts to remediate brownfields so that they are returned to productive use.
4. Allocate its permitting, enforcement and clean-up resources, to the extent feasible, so as to reduce disproportionate environmental and related health impacts on ethnic minority and low-income communities.
5. Explore available mitigation measures whenever a Department decision has the potential to adversely affect any community already experiencing disproportionate environmental and/or health impacts.
6. Consider regional impacts of the Department's decisions and activities, utilizing Geographic Information System (GIS), census and demographic data to more fully characterize areas surrounding sites and facilities, specifically indicating sensitive receptors, and other facilities and sites that may have an impact on community health.
7. Participate in area studies dealing with health, sensitive receptors, facility data, demographics or other pertinent issues to ensure that permitting and site remediation decisions within targeted communities fully incorporate environmental justice concerns; and evaluate the need to initiate permit modifications or consider modifications to remediation plans to address disparate impacts that are identified as part of the area studies.

8. Work with Cal/EPA and its boards, departments and offices, and within the Department to promote implementation of policies and procedures that ensure that low-income communities and/or communities with minority populations have access to environmental and health-related information. This will include conducting assessments to determine language and cultural needs of a specific community, providing information in appropriate languages, and encouraging early and continuous public involvement; and will include a commitment that site-related public participation documents are made available on the Department's web site in appropriate languages.
9. Work with Cal/EPA's External Advisory Committee for Environmental Justice to develop cross-media and cross-agency approaches to community concerns.
10. Provide ongoing training for Department staff and management regarding this policy and other fundamentals of environmental justice, emphasize environmental justice is the responsibility of all programs, and ensure implementation of this policy is incorporated into performance evaluations.